



Natural Heritage
& Endangered Species
Program

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
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Spartina Borer
(*Spartiniphaga inops*)

State Status: **Special Concern**

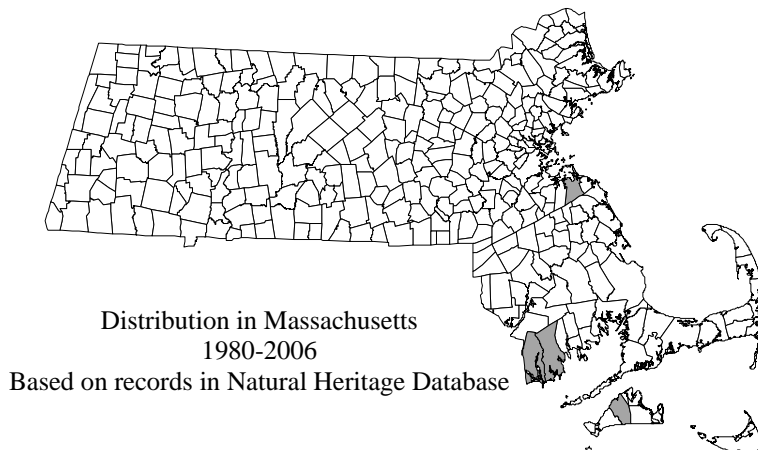
Species Description

The Spartina Borer is a rather nondescript noctuid moth, forewings tan with dark gray spot in lower half of reniform spot; hind wings white. Wingspan 26-30 mm.

Global Rarity Ranking	State Rarity Ranking	Conservation Concern
G2G4	S1S3	State List; Globally Rare

Distribution and Abundance

There are six current occurrences of the Spartina Borer in Massachusetts (NHESP database, accessed June 2006).



Habitat Description

In the Midwest the Spartina Borer is found in mesic prairies; in Massachusetts, it inhabits fresh or brackish coastal marshes and margins of coastal salt ponds, where larvae feed on prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*).

Threats

- Loss and degradation of habitat (coastal marshes), e.g., through hydrologic alteration.
- Invasion by exotic plants (e.g., *Phragmites*).
- Insecticide spraying.

Originated: 2006